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which the public has been flooded within the last few years is very large. Some of these are deservedly popular, not only because they are written in an entertaining and popular style, but also for the further reason that they are the work of genuine scholarship, based upon careful and conscientious research. But by far the larger number of our school histories are the work of unscholarly and careless compilers who have copied the errors of the authors from whom they have drawn. Some discussion of the different authors mentioned, especially in the field of school text-books, would be a genuine contribution to the value of the book, and would fill a want long felt by the teachers of history in our public schools.

*Albert A. Bird.*

*The Beginner's American History.* By D. H. MONTGOMERY. Ginn & Co.: Boston. pp. 234.

The little book by Mr. Montgomery is exactly what its title implies, a "Beginner's American History." It is not an abridgment of the large and deservedly popular work by the same author, "The Leading Facts of American History." Unlike many other authors, Mr. Montgomery does not attempt to cover the whole field of American history by enumerating a long list of dry details, which would not only have no attraction, but would be positively distasteful to the average ten year old school boy.

The book is largely biographical in its plan, and its chief merit is due to the fact that the author has displayed rare good judgment in the selection and correlation of the material used. In the main, only anecdotes of undoubted authenticity have been used, although some of questionable authority have crept in, as for example the story of Pocahontus saving the life of Captain John Smith.

Few persons can write a history over which any large percentage of school children will become enthusiastic. But Mr. Montgomery undoubtedly understands boys, and what is of interest to them. He has told the story of the lives of some of the chief makers of America in a wonderfully attractive and simple style. The field from which to select material is so wide, and the important characters in American history so numerous, that there is a wide range for the exercise of individual judgment in determining what should be included in such a book. Some of us, perhaps, would have made a selection different from that made by the author. But on the whole he has displayed great tact and we predict that with younger students this book will become even more popular than his *Leading Facts* has already become with more advanced students.

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